

Date: March 11, 2016

To: Planning and Development Committee of the CT General Assembly

From: Nancy Bowden

RE: In support of SB 422 – An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates

I write to support SB 422 that seeks to put citizens ahead of corporate interests and profits in the event of a water emergency as well as in rate setting.

Recent secretive negotiations led by Niagara Bottling Company and MetroHartford Alliance have had the effect of sending the message loud and clear that Wall Street still reigns supreme over Main Street.

While there are many reasons to oppose the presence of Niagara Bottling Company in Bloomfield, and while there are also many reasons to wage a campaign against the ubiquitous individual water bottle in our schools, workplaces and communities, the ultimate insult to the people and to the climate is to ENCOURAGE the unnecessary drawing down of public water sources to feed corporate profit. Danger lies in providing such “water licenses” to corporate entities.

One only need consider that, while the people of Flint Michigan deal with the cataclysmic outcome of poor governmental decision-making, including health impacts and the ongoing need to pay high prices for that most essential of life forces, Nestle continues to draw water for its own profit from Lake Michigan for FREE. Please put a stake in the ground NOW by passing SB 422, so that we the people can have a small safety net from which to continue the fight to keep public water safe, affordable and well-conserved.

Sincerely,

Nancy R Bowden